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Acting Secretary for
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State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Water Rights

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Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION Pursuant to Section 21080(c) **Public Resources Code**

To: Office of Planning & Research State Clearinghouse P.O. Box 3044 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044	From: State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights P.O. Box 2000 Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
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PROJECT TITLE: Palisades Ranch Petitions for Change and Extension of Time

APPLICANT: Flora Springs Winery
c/o James C. Hanson
Wagner & Bonsignore
Consulting Civil Engineers
2151 River Plaza Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95833

PROJECT LOCATION:

The proposed project is located in northwestern Pope Valley approximately one mile southeast of Aetna Springs, and about two miles northwest of the community of Pope Valley in Napa County, California. The project is located within Township 9N, Range 5W and 6W of the "Aetna Springs, California" U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute topographic quadrangle.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Petitioner is proposing the addition of 121 acres, which includes approximately 110 acres of existing vineyard, to the place of use named in Licenses 2947, 7430, and 13396 (Applications 9574, 18949, 19374), and Permit 19189 (Application 27625). Water from three existing storage reservoirs would be used to serve the additional acreage. The licensed rights presently provide for the diversion of 265 acre-feet (af) of water from Unnamed Streams tributary to Pope Creek, and for the maximum annual withdrawal of 236 af of water.

The proposed project also includes a Petition for Extension of Time for Permit 19189 (Application 27625). As the first petition expired before environmental review was complete, an additional Petition for Extension of Time was filed on June 30, 2009. The petition seeks a 26-year extension for Permit 19189, from December 31, 1993, to December 31, 2019, to complete beneficial use, and a 27 year extension, from December 31, 1992, to December 31, 2019, to complete construction.

DETERMINATION:

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has determined that the above-described project will have a less than significant effect on the environment for the reasons specified in the Initial Study prepared for this project.

PERMIT TERMS:

Mitigation measures have been incorporated into the project to avoid potential significant environmental impacts. Specific terms reflecting the mitigation measures, written substantially as follows, will be included in any permits, licenses, or orders issued by the State Water Board.

- < Permittee shall submit a detailed Dust Control and Mitigation Plan for review and approval by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Prior to the start of construction or diversion or use of water under this permit or license, Permittee shall submit documentation to the Deputy Director for Water Rights showing that the BAAQMD has approved the Permittee's Dust Control and Mitigation Plan.
- < No construction shall commence and no water diverted or used under these rights shall be applied to the 121 acre expanded place of use until all necessary federal, state and local approvals have been obtained for the planting of the 121 acre expanded place of use and the diversion and use of water.
- < In order to prevent degradation of the quality of water during and after construction of the project, Permittee shall file a report pursuant to Water Code section 13260 prior to commencement of construction and shall comply with all waste discharge requirements imposed by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, or by the State Water Board.
- < No debris, soil, silt, cement that has not set, oil, or other such foreign substance will be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall runoff into the waters of the State. When operations are completed any excess materials or debris shall be removed from the work area.
- < Construction avoidance measures shall be incorporated into any future vineyard development plans to avoid all elderberry shrubs. A 100-foot (or wider) buffer shall be established and maintained around the elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus mexicana*) for complete avoidance of adverse impacts. The buffer shall consist of fencing and flagging; contractors and construction crews shall be briefed on the purpose of the buffer, the need for protection, areas to avoid and reporting measures to carry out if an impact occurs. Buffer areas shall be maintained during the duration of construction. In areas where existing vineyard development has encroached within the 100-foot buffer, all remaining portions of the existing riparian corridor (defined by extant riparian vegetation) shall be maintained. Photographs and a map indicating the location(s) of all elderberry shrubs and established buffers at the project site in proximity to any new vineyard development in the place of use should be submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights 30 days prior to the development.

- < If construction activities are to occur between February 1 and September 30, a biologist, whose qualifications are acceptable to the Deputy Director for Water Rights, shall conduct a pre-construction survey for the purpose of identifying nesting bird species. The pre-construction survey shall include all potential nesting habitat within 500 feet of proposed construction areas. The survey shall be conducted no more than 14 days prior to the beginning of construction activities. If an active raptor or migratory bird nest is found during the pre-construction survey, the Permittee shall notify the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG.) If an active raptor nest is found during the pre-construction survey, a 500-foot no-disturbance buffer shall be established and maintained around the nest until all young have fledged. If an active nest of any other migratory or non-migratory bird is found, a 250-foot buffer shall be established around the nest until all young have fledged.
- < For the protection of riparian habitat, Permittee shall establish a setback as shown in Figure 5, Riparian Corridors, of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The setback shall be at least 45 feet wide along the intermittent drainages and swales adjacent to the expanded place of use as measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. No ground disturbing activities shall occur within the setback area, including, but not limited to, grading, herbicide spraying, roads, fencing, and use or construction of storage areas, with the exception of occasional equipment access reasonably necessary for continued operation of the vineyard. Equipment access through the setback shall be limited to previously disturbed areas of the setback when possible and is only allowed when other means of access are not available. Equipment access through the setback area shall incorporate best management practices to minimize disturbance to water, soils, and vegetation. Planting and irrigation of native riparian vegetation within the setback area is allowed. Permittee shall restrict cattle or other domestic stock access to the riparian area. These requirements shall remain in effect as long as water is being diverted under this permit.
- < The vernal pool that occurs in the southern portion of the expanded place of use and the adjacent stand of valley oaks (Figure 5, Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration) shall be preserved. Invasive weeds shall be removed from the vernal pool area biannually for five years. Photographs shall be taken prior to and after each vernal pool weed removal and submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights with annual progress reports. The dirt harvest road that bisects the remaining portion of the vernal pool shall be permanently taken out of service to facilitate natural vernal pool recovery as long as water is being diverted under this permit.

- < The 0.12 acres of wetland habitat assumed to be impacted by the project shall be mitigated through creation/restoration of wetlands at a ratio of 1.5 to 1 (restored to impacted) wetland acreage. No less than 0.18 acres of wetland shall be enhanced to support wetland plants similar to those previously found at the impacted wetland, such as prickly coyote-thistle (*Eryngium armatum*), oniongrass (*Melica bulbosa*), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), common yellow monkeyflower (*Mimulus guttatus*), irisleaf rush (*Juncus xiphioides*), spotted-throat downingia (*Downingia concolor*), and Douglas' Pogogyne (*Pogogyne douglasii*). The plants used for wetland mitigation shall be approved by DFG prior to mitigation implementation. The mitigation shall occur on the project site, in the vicinity of the wetland swale in the northeastern portion of the expanded place of use (Figure 5, Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration), or in a comparable onsite location that would support the hydrology and wetland plants similar to those previously found at the impacted wetland. A minimum setback of 50 feet shall be maintained from the edge of the mitigated wetland. No ground disturbing activities shall occur within the setback area, including, but not limited to, grading, herbicide spraying, roads, fencing, and use or construction of storage areas. Planting, maintenance, and irrigation of wetland vegetation within the setback area are allowed.

The mitigation site shall be monitored annually for five years by a biologist whose qualifications are acceptable to the Deputy Director for Water Rights to assess the success of the wetland vegetation. Photograph locations will be established along the mitigation site. During the annual monitoring visit, photographs will be taken and the success of the vegetation will be documented. Reports shall include photo documentation of the mitigation site. Monitoring reports shall be submitted annually to the Deputy Director for Water Rights and DFG for the five monitoring years (as-built report at the completion of restoration/creation of wetlands plus reports for two monitoring years thereafter) or until mitigation has been deemed successful. The mitigation will be considered successful if, at the end of the five-year monitoring period, the mitigation site has achieved an overall 80 percent cover. If the survival of the vegetation is determined to be below 80 percent after any of the annual monitoring events, additional wetland plants will be planted in order to achieve success.

- < No work shall commence and no water shall be diverted and used on the 121 acre expanded place of use under this permit or license until a signed copy of a Streambed Alteration Agreement between DFG and the Permittee is filed with the Division of Water Rights. Compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement is the responsibility of the Permittee. If a Streambed Alteration Agreement is not necessary for this permitted project, the Permittee shall provide the Division of Water Rights a copy of a waiver signed by DFG.
- < Prior to the start of construction, or diversion and use of water on the 121 acre expanded place of use under this permit or license, Permittee shall obtain the appropriate permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and file a copy with Division of Water Rights. If a permit from the USACE is not necessary for this permitted project, the Permittee shall provide the Division of Water Rights with a letter from the USACE affirming that a permit is not needed.

- < Prior to the start of construction, or diversion and use of water on the 121 acre expanded place of use under this permit or license, Permittee shall obtain Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Board or the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board unless the certification is waived by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- < No oak trees shall be removed until an Oak Tree Mitigation Plan is approved by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. Tree replacement shall be conducted consistent with the Tree Mitigation Plan that has been submitted to the Division of Water Rights and tree mitigation shall occur in the areas depicted in Figure 4 of the Tree Mitigation Plan. The previously removed oak woodlands (approximately 2,711 trees within approximately 39 acres) and oak woodlands remaining within the 121 acre expanded place of use (if impacted, consisting of approximately 272 trees within two acres) shall be replaced in the approximately 41 undeveloped acres identified on site at a 1.5 to 1 ratio. Associative native shrub species shall also be planted along with the replacement trees at a 1 to 0.25 ratio (tree:shrub). The Tree Mitigation Plan includes planting specifications for replacement trees and shrubs, irrigation methods, maintenance and monitoring requirements, and success criteria for mitigation plantings. Failed plantings shall be replaced to achieve net success criteria of 80 percent survival after five years. Trees surviving five years shall be maintained in perpetuity. Photo documentation showing the results of the tree replacement shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights when requested after five years. All photos shall be dated and the location of the photos shown on a drawing. After five years, any trees which die of natural causes shall be photographed and photos indicating the date the photo was taken and location of the tree(s) shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights with annual progress reports.

The five notable trees (Figure 5, Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration) shall also be avoided. To protect oak trees intended to remain undisturbed from project-related disturbance, construction fencing shall be installed as far as feasible outside the driplines of oak trees within the vicinity of construction areas. No encroachment into the fenced areas shall be permitted and fencing shall remain in place until all construction activities have ceased. Where encroachment is necessary past the driplines, a certified arborist shall document compliance with the following: at least 12 inches of mulch will be temporarily placed to protect roots from compaction; any tree roots to be severed shall be the maximum feasible distance from the trunk; any roots over one-inch in diameter that are damaged as a result of construction activities shall be traced back and cleanly cut behind any damaged area; and exposed roots shall be kept moist or covered immediately. Documentation, including photographs that this mitigation measure has been completed shall be submitted to the Division of Water Rights within 30 days of installation of new vineyard blocks.

- < The cultural resource site, identified as CA-NAP-251 by Peter Banks in the report titled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Komes-Edge Hill Farms Properties, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated July 25, 1983, shall not be impacted by the proposed project (e.g., water diversion, storage reservoirs, and distribution facilities, installation of pipelines; road improvements; and ripping, trenching, grading or planting related to both the conversion of land to agricultural use and maintenance of the place of use). CA-NAP-251 shall be protected by installing and maintaining a fence around the site perimeter. The placement of the fence inclusive of a buffer zone of 15 feet shall be determined by Tom Origer & Associates in consultation with the State Water Board archaeologist. The fencing shall remain in place for as long as water is being diverted pursuant to any permits and licenses. Weed growth within the fenced area may be controlled by mowing; however, herbicides shall not be used because they could alter the site's chemistry and adversely impact the archaeological deposit. Any future project-related activities or developments at the location of the above listed site may be allowed only if an archaeologist that has been approved by California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) to work in the area, and that is acceptable to the Deputy Director for Water Rights is retained to determine the significance of the site. If mitigation is determined to be necessary, then the archeologist shall design an appropriate mitigation plan and submit the plan for approval by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. GPS coordinates shall be used to identify the boundary of the sensitive area and be submitted to the staff of the Division of Water Rights. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < The cultural resource site, identified as CA-NAP-252 by Peter Banks in the report titled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Komes-Edge Hill Farms Properties, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated July 25, 1983, shall not be impacted by the proposed project (e.g., water diversion, storage reservoirs, and distribution facilities, installation of pipelines; road improvements; and ripping, trenching, grading or planting related to both the conversion of land to agricultural use and maintenance of the place of use). Ongoing agricultural related impacts at CA-NAP-252 have occurred as a result of the previous location of equipment storage sheds, roads, and farm-related activities where CA-NAP-252 is located. In order to minimize any possible additional impacts to CA-NAP-252, the site shall be covered with a layer of gravel, the distribution of which is to be determined by Tom Origer & Associates in consultation with the State Water Board archaeologist. Any future project-related activities or developments at the location of the above listed site may be allowed only if an archaeologist that has been approved by CHRIS to work in the area, and that is acceptable to the Deputy Director for Water Rights is retained to determine the significance of the site. If mitigation is determined to be necessary, then the archeologist shall design an appropriate mitigation plan and submit the plan for approval by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. GPS coordinates shall be used to identify the boundary of the sensitive area and be submitted to the staff of the Division of Water Rights. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.

- < The cultural resource site identified as CA-NAP-314, by Peter Banks in the report titled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Komes-Edge Hill Farms Properties, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated July 25, 1983, and again by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "Archaeological Investigations at Cypress and Palisades Ranches, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated January 2010, shall not be impacted by any subsurface disturbances (e.g., ripping, trenching, grading, or installation of buried pipelines). Routine maintenance of existing vineyard, including shallow discing and weed mowing will continue to be allowed. When vine replacement is necessary, vine removal shall be done as non-invasively as possible, by pulling the vines vertically with a chain attached to the hydraulic system on a tractor. Vine removal shall occur only while the soil is moist down to six inches, and new vines shall be replanted in the same location as the vines which were removed. The Permittee shall mark the location of CA-NAP-314 with permanent line stakes extending a minimum of two feet above the height of the existing line stakes. The delineation of the site area shall be determined by Tom Origer & Associates in consultation with the State Water Board archaeologist. GPS coordinates shall be used to identify the boundary of the sensitive area and be submitted to the staff of the Division of Water Rights. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < The location of the site previously identified as CA-NAP-670, by Peter Banks in the report titled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Komes-Edge Hill Farms Properties, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated July 25, 1983, and again discussed by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "Archaeological Investigations at Cypress and Palisades Ranches, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated January 2010, may continue to be used as vineyard. Routine maintenance of the vineyard, including shallow discing and weed mowing will continue to be allowed with no limitations for ripping or replanting. If future ground disturbing activities should uncover possible archaeological specimens, work shall be halted until the Deputy Director for Water Rights is notified of the discovery and a professional archeologist is retained by the Permittee to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed mitigation measures shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights for approval. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < The site identified as CA-NAP-672, by Peter Banks in the report titled "An Archaeological Reconnaissance of the Komes-Edge Hill Farms Properties, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated July 25, 1983, and again by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "Archaeological Investigations at Cypress and Palisades Ranches, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated January 2010, shall not be impacted by any subsurface disturbances (e.g., ripping, trenching, grading, or installation of buried pipelines). Routine maintenance of the existing vineyard, including shallow discing and weed mowing will continue to be allowed. If vine replacement is necessary, vine removal shall be done as non-invasively as possible, by pulling the vines vertically with a chain attached to the hydraulic system on a tractor. Vine removal shall occur only while the soil is moist down to six inches, and new vines shall be replanted in the same location as the vines that were removed. The Permittee shall mark the sensitive area of CA-NAP-672 with permanent line

stakes extending a minimum of two feet above the height of the existing line stakes. The delineation of the sensitive area shall be determined by Tom Origer & Associates in consultation with the State Water Board archaeologist. GPS coordinates shall be used to identify the boundary of the sensitive area and be submitted to the staff of the Division of Water Rights. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.

- < The site identified as CA-NAP-936, by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "Archaeological Investigations at Cypress and Palisades Ranches, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated January 2010 shall be excluded from the place of use and avoided during project construction, development, and operation. Existing vines will be cut off and treated to prevent re-growth when the Permittee determines that production of the vines has decreased or disease requires removal of the vines. The vineyard infra-structure including line stakes, posts and the drip lines in the site area shall be removed at the same time. The existing vineyard road (avenue) bisecting the site will no longer be used and the road will be re-routed around the location of CA-NAP-936. An archaeologist, who has been approved by CHRIS to work in the area and who is acceptable to the Deputy Director for Water Rights, shall be present during the removal of the vineyard infrastructure including the stakes and posts and irrigation system to ensure minimal ground disturbance. The site area shall be protected from future use by erecting a permanent fence around the site perimeter. The fence shall be at least five-feet in height and set back 15 feet from the site edge to create a buffer. The placement of the fence shall be determined by the senior author of the 2010 Tom Origer & Associates report in consultation with the State Water Board archaeologist. GPS shall be used to identify the boundary of the sensitive area and the GPS coordinates shall be submitted to the staff of the Division of Water Rights. Weed growth within the fenced area may be controlled by mowing; however, herbicides shall not be used because they could alter the site's chemistry and adversely impact the archaeological deposit. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < The site identified as Flora Springs 4 (the hand dug stone lined well) by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "A Cultural Resource Study for the Flora Springs Water Rights Application Project, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated September 15, 1999, shall be filled and avoided during project construction, development, and operation. The site shall not be impacted by any of the features of the proposed project (e.g., water diversion, storage reservoirs, and distribution facilities, including installation of buried pipelines; and ripping, trenching, grading, or planting related to conversion and maintenance of the place of use-vineyards). Routine maintenance of the vineyard, including shallow discing and weed mowing will continue to be allowed. If future project-related activities or developments at the location of Flora Springs 4 are unavoidable, then an archaeologist who has been approved by CHRIS to work in the area and who is acceptable to the staff of the Division of Water Rights shall determine the significance of the site. If mitigation is determined to be necessary, then the archaeologist shall design an appropriate mitigation plan and submit the plan for approval by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for

Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.

- < The site identified as CA-NAP-938/H (Flora Springs 5), by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "A Cultural Resource Study for the Flora Springs Water Rights Application Project, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated September 15, 1999 shall be avoided during project construction, development, and operation. The site shall remain fenced and shall not be impacted by any of the features of the proposed project (e.g., water diversion, storage reservoirs, and distribution facilities, including installation of buried pipelines; and ripping, trenching, grading, or planting related to conversion and maintenance of the place of use-vineyards). If future project-related activities or developments at the location of CA-NAP-938/H (Flora Springs 5) are unavoidable, then an archaeologist who has been approved by CHRIS to work in the area and who is acceptable to the staff of the Division of Water Rights shall determine the significance of the site. If mitigation is determined to be necessary, then the archaeologist shall design an appropriate mitigation plan and submit the plan for approval by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < The site identified as CA-NAP-939H (Flora Springs 6), by Tom Origer & Associates in the report titled "A Cultural Resource Study for the Flora Springs Water Rights Application Project, Pope Valley, Napa County, California" dated September 15, 1999 shall be avoided during project construction, development, and operation. The site shall not be impacted by any of the features of the proposed project (e.g., water diversion, storage reservoirs, and distribution facilities, including installation of buried pipelines; and ripping, trenching, grading, or planting related to conversion and maintenance of the place of use-vineyards). If avoidance is unfeasible, an archaeologist who has been approved by CHRIS to work in the area, and who is acceptable to the staff of the Division of Water Rights, shall monitor all ground disturbance, determine the boundaries of newly discovered features, and determine the significance of the site. If mitigation is determined to be necessary, then the archaeologist shall design an appropriate mitigation plan and submit the plan for approval by the Deputy Director for Water Rights. After the plan has been approved, the mitigation must be completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights prior to activities in the area of the site. Permittee shall be responsible for all costs associated with the cultural resource related work.
- < Should any buried archaeological materials be uncovered during project activities, such activities shall cease within 100 feet of the find. Prehistoric archaeological indicators include: obsidian and chert flakes and flaked stone tools; bedrock outcrops and boulders with mortar cups; ground stone implements (grinding slabs, mortars and pestles) and locally darkened midden soils containing some of the previously listed items plus fragments of bone and fire affected stones. Historic period site indicators generally include: fragments of glass, ceramic and metal objects; milled and split lumber; and structure and feature remains such as building foundations, privy pits, wells and dumps; and old trails. The Deputy Director for Water Rights shall be notified of the discovery and a professional archeologist

shall be retained by the Permittee to evaluate the find and recommend appropriate mitigation measures. Proposed mitigation measures shall be submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights for approval. Project-related activities shall not resume within 100 feet of the find until all approved mitigation measures have been completed to the satisfaction of the Deputy Director for Water Rights.

- < If human remains are encountered, then the Permittee shall comply with Section 15064.5 (e)(1) of the CEQA Guidelines and the Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5. All project-related ground disturbances within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the Napa County Coroner has been notified. If the Coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission to identify the most-likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance, in the vicinity of the find, shall not resume until the process detailed under Section 15064.5 (e) has been completed and evidence of completion has been submitted to the Deputy Director for Water Rights.

APPROVAL OF THE ABOVE IS RECOMMENDED BY:

Phillip Crader, Acting Manager Date _____

Water Rights Permitting Section

Barbara Evoy, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights

